

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04412 040712Z

12

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /073 W

----- 007123

R 031737Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6375

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, SP

SUBJECT: GERMAN M-48 TANKS FOR SPAIN

EMBASSY ENDORSES PROPOSED SALE TO SPAIN BY FRG OF M-48 A-2 TANKS. SPANISH ARMY'S ENTIRE 600-TANK FLEET OF US ORIGIN (WITH EXCEPTION OF 19 FRENCH AMX-30'S) SALE WOULD HELP UPGRADE THIS FLEET IN MODEST BUT REALISTIC WAY, AND WOULD HELP PRESERVE LOGISTICAL SIMPLICITY AND COMPATIBILITY. WHILE SPANISH HAVE HAD AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH SINCE 1970 TO BUILD INITIAL RUN OF 200 AMX-30 TANKS UNDER LICENSE, NONE HAS YET BEEN PRODUCED AND SLOW PACE OF PROGRAM HAS CAUSED SPANISH MILITARY PLANNERS TO THINK ABOUT POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. ACQUISITION OF SERVICEABLE, LATER-MODEL US TANKS AT THIS TIME MAY AID IN REGAINING COMPETITIVE EDGE OVER FRENCH IN PROVISION OF ARMOR.
RIVERO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: hilburpw
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MASS, GE, SP
To: STATE
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